

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 10, 2005**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on Monday, October 10, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chamber of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs, Chohany, and Freiling. Also present were Assistant City Manager Miller, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist. Mr. Tuttle was in the UK participating in an international exchange program.

Staff Attending: Department Heads: Clayton, Serra, Yost, Hudson, and Walentisch.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

The Mayor announced that Scott Jackson had not arrived. The agenda was rearranged.

Public Safety Grants, Report by Chief Yost

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated October 6, 2005. Chief Yost said that over the past ten years, the Police and Fire Departments have received various grants for projects and equipment. Deby Middlebrook is the public safety grants administrator and prepared the synopsis of grants for Council. Chief Yost reviewed the types of grants received and how they were used: local law enforcement block grants, Department of Motor Vehicles grants, Department of Criminal Justice Grants, Homeland Security Grants, Bulletproof Vest Grants, Litter Grants, Community Oriented Police Grants, and radio grants (see attached synopsis).

A brief discussion followed. Ms. Middlebrook and Council members discussed the importance of receiving grant funding and making this information available on-line. Chief Yost said that these grant funds are advantageous to the department and it is worth the effort to obtain grant funds.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Chief Yost for his report.

Visiting Student: Mayor Zeidler recognized Callie Pinto, a Lafayette High School student. Ms. Pinto will attend three City Council meetings as part of her AP Government class.

Festival Williamsburg—Update by Scott Jackson, General Manager, Virginia Arts Festival

Scott Jackson apologized for arriving late, but was caught in traffic. He provided information about the upcoming Virginia Arts Festival 10th Season and a copy of a September 29 newspaper article about the 2006 events. Last year's festival was a great season with an all time high in ticket sales. The economic impact was \$6.5 million for Hampton Roads and more than 27,000 Hampton Roads students enjoyed the events. The weather was beautiful! Twenty-two percent of the attendees were from out of town (gauged by the fact that attendees are from 90 miles away and stay over night).

Mr. Jackson said that the 2006 Festival will be the 10th Anniversary of the event. The festival will be expanded to five days—Wednesday through Sunday—May 17-May 21, with a change in the concert venues. Highlights of the festival will be Joanne Shenandoah and Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. Mr. Jackson expressed appreciation for the working partnership with the College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Council members were pleased to hear about the festival's success and were looking forward to the expanded festival for next year. Mr. Haulman requested more data about attendance by people from out of the area. Mr. Jackson said another random audience survey would be conducted.

Mr. Jackson noted that he works closely with Michael Fox at the College. Carol Beers, the former School Superintendent, will be joining the festival board. Council suggested a representative from the Chamber of Commerce for the board.

Mr. Jackson said that tickets go on sale in February and can be purchased on-line at the festival's website, www.vafest.com.

Financial Procedures Manual & Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated October 6, 2005. Council members received a copy of the Manual. Mr. Serra reported that the city's Financial Procedures Manual was first drafted in 1997 at the suggestion of the auditors. The manual, which documents the departments accounting and operational procedures, now includes the Information Technology Strategic Plan. The Plan will be on the October meeting agenda for adoption.

Mark Barham, author of the IT Strategic Plan, said the plan addresses technology as it relates to city services. Functional areas of the plan are E-Government, GIS Systems, network infrastructure, security, office automation, hardware life cycle management program, Internet and Intranet, and voice/video systems. The plan establishes standards for IT, specific initiatives, and identifies important issues for city departments.

Council members, Mr. Serra and Mr. Barham discussed:

1. Review of the IT Plan at budget time and modification to keep up with technology changes.
2. The fusion of city department business and the work of the technology staff.
3. The GIS System and its future uses.
4. The city's video system.
5. The IT Plan will be available to citizens on the website.
6. Formation of a GIS Steering Committee with representatives from Police, Fire, Planning, and Economic Development.
7. The city's online property system is not working properly and needs rewriting.
8. Expanding the city's network to include affiliate agencies such as the Housing Authority.

Draft 2006 Legislative Agenda

Reference for this item was Mr. Tuttle's report dated October 6, 2005.

Ms. Miller reviewed the draft list of regional and statewide priorities (see attached list) identified for the 2006 General Assembly. Input has been received from Virginia Municipal League, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, College of William and Mary,

Williamsburg/James City County School System, James City County, Jamestown 2007, and the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce. The draft list is on the website and citizen comments are being received. Council will receive an updated draft at the November work session and the finalized document at their November regular meeting. Our Delegate and Senator will be scheduled to meet with Council members in early December.

Council members discussed and suggested revisions/additions regarding:

1. Eminent Domain: Mr. Phillips commented that in Virginia eminent domain was circumscribed and that it could not be used for the benefit of private person. The General Assembly will have numerous bills before them about this issue. Council members concurred that Mr. Phillips will study the language to clarify the issue of balance so that the city's hands are not tied too tightly or that localities would lose the right of eminent domain. Ms. Miller added that the language in the city's draft was currently consistent with VML's position and she will apprise Council of any changes.

2. Nuisances: Mr. Phillips will report to Council at the November meeting regarding property maintenance and property issues as a possible legislative agenda item. Lawn maintenance will be included.

3. Visitor Center Funding for the 2007 Commemoration: The Mayor said the \$500,000 is for changes to the Visitor Center. It is not marketing money. She understood that the intent for the Visitor Center is that of a one-stop regional center to assist visitors to the area for the 2007 event. Mr. Chohany and Mr. Scruggs asked for additional detail on this item, and would like to know if the counties have been approached about supporting this request.

4. Tourism Funding: Mr. Scruggs suggested that this item be worded to reflect "strongly urged" and that a dollar figure be added to the agenda. This is an investment by the State. York County and James City County should also support this request. Mr. Freiling concurred that the city strongly urge this funding with emphatic wording. Ms. Miller will check to see if there has ever been a statewide collaborative effort for this item, perhaps through VML.

5. Addition: Mr. Scruggs suggested that funding for additional college housing be added to the agenda. Mr. Haulman explained that colleges must now treat resident life housing and parking services as auxiliary enterprises that must be self-supporting. Perhaps this issue should be pressed with the college. Mr. Freiling shared Mr. Scruggs concerns, but in light of Mr. Haulman's comments, the legislative agenda is not the place to address this.

6. Standards of Quality Requirements and School Capital Projects: Mr. Freiling asked for specifics about what is included on our legislative agenda. Mr. Haulman informed Ms. Miller that VML has a report on this.

7. Real Estate Taxes and Taxation on Local Government: Mr. Freiling was concerned that the state is getting out of control in their dominion over local government, particularly taxes on local government services.

Mr. Chohany suggested that regional priorities be coordinated with James City County and York County. Ms. Miller said that York County's legislative agenda has been adopted and includes an item regarding the VTC, and she will follow up on the James City County agenda.

Mayor Zeidler noted that in the past, Council has endorsed the legislative agenda of the Peninsula and Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs. Perhaps there are other regional issues that might be added to the city's Legislative Agenda. Ms. Miller emphasized that this draft legislative agenda was a starting point in the process and that Council may see changes in November.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the floor for comment.
No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

Preview of October 13, 2005 Council Meeting

Council members did not ask for additional information.

City Council Communications

Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board:

Mr. Haulman reported on the Braxton Court Redevelopment Program. Three houses are being renovated and more are planned for the future.

Economic Development Authority:

Mr. Chohany said that Ms. DeWitt facilitated round table discussions with the group regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the city's economy.

Lunch Meeting with Students at the College:

Mr. Scruggs and Mr. Freiling conversed with students regarding issues and concerns.

Schedule of Meetings: October 2005

Council members received a copy of the meeting calendar for October. Ms. Miller pointed out that the VML Annual Conference will be held October 23-25 in Richmond. The city's Investment Committee will meet October 26, 2:30 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.
No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one Personnel matter per subparagraph one concerning appointments to Boards and Commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The Mayor called a five-minute recess.
At 4:10 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: October 10, 2005

Motion: Mr. Haulman; Second: Mr. Chohany

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Approved: November 10, 2005

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council